

Application Serial No.: 09/801,401
Attorney Docket No.: 0190229

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is in response to the *Non-Final* Office Action of January 24, 2005, where the Examiner has rejected claims 1-22. By the present amendment, claims 1, 6 and 7 have been amended, claims 5 and 11-22 have been cancelled, and new claims 23-31 have been added. After the present amendment, claims 1-4, 6-10 and 23-31 are pending in the present application. Allowance of outstanding claims 1-4, 6-10 and 23-31 in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

A. Rejection of Claims 11-13 under 35 USC §102(e)

The Examiner has rejected claims 11-13, under 35 USC §102(e), as being anticipated by Konno, et al. (USPN 6,529,289) ("Konno").

By the present amendment, applicant has cancelled claims 11-13. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's rejection of claims 11-13 has been rendered moot.

B. Rejection of Claims 1-22 under 35 USC §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-22, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Telle (USPN 6,469,801) in view of Schoenzeit, et al. (USPN 5,619,624) ("Schoenzeit").

In response to applicant's explanation in response to the previous of office action, the Examiner states that "While the Examiner admits that Telle does not expressly store

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one or more image data awaiting additional processing by the *imaging system* (emphasis added), the reference to Schoenzeit, et al. (5,619,624) does show this feature” (Office Action, Page 2.) Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The Examiner states that items 40a-40c of Schoenzeit disclose “storing one or more image data awaiting additional processing by the imaging system.” However, a close review of FIGs. 2-3 and col. 5, lines 36-46 of Schoenzeit indicates that items 40a-40c are output device control modules for managing and sending rasterized image data to output devices 16, such as an image recorder. Accordingly, items 40a-40c do not store one or more image data awaiting additional image processing by the imaging system, as recited in amended claim 1. It is noted that claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the additional processing is an “image” processing operation, which is performed on “processed intermediate image data,” unlike Schoenzeit, which merely discloses outputting “final image data.” Applicant respectfully submits that, at best, Schoenzeit discloses that rasterized image data (or final data) is managed by items 40a-40c for sending to output devices 16, such as an image recorder.

Furthermore, applicant submits that Telle fails to disclose, teach or suggest “an intermediate storage queue configured to store one or more processed intermediate image data, wherein the intermediate storage queue is communicatively coupled to the image processing circuitry and the transformation circuitry,” as recited in amended claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that buffers 54 and 56 of FIG. 2 in Telle are, at best, initial and final buffers, respectively. Telle clearly states that buffer 54 holds raw image data

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and buffer 56 holds the final result of digital image processing 52 prior to sending to an output device by interface hardware 48'. Therefore, also for this additional reason, Telle and Schoenzeit, either solely or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest one or more of the limitations of claim 1, as amended.

Accordingly, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-4 and 6-10 should be allowed for the reasons stated above. Furthermore, new independent method claim 23 includes limitations similar to those of claim 1. Accordingly, claim 23 and its dependent claims 24-31 should be allowed at least for the same reasons stated above.

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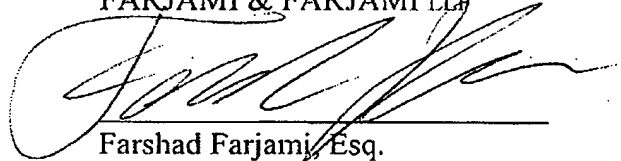
C. Conclusion

Based on the foregoing reasons, an early Notice of Allowance directed to all claims 1-4, 6-10 and 23-31 pending in the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicant would like to advise the Examiner of a recent change in the attorneys of record. Applicant respectfully requests that all correspondence regarding the present application be made to the address shown below.

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<u>CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION</u>	
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